

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 66. (Canceled)

67. (Currently Amended) A commissioning system for a plurality of articles, the system comprising:

a plurality of article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, each of said plurality of article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal to have an upper and lower end, said each of said plurality of article shafts having a support for holding a plurality of the articles;

a cart horizontally movable along said plurality of article shafts;

an article loader mounted vertically movable on said cart, said loader having a support for holding a stack of the articles, the stack of articles having with a longitudinal axis in a predominately vertical direction, vertical movements of said article loader on said cart and horizontal movements of said cart selectively arrange said article loader at each of said plurality of article shafts, said article loader including an ejector movable in a transverse direction to said longitudinal axis of the stack of articles and individually ejecting one of the articles from the stack of articles in said transverse direction into a selected one of said article shafts.

68. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a bottom of said article loader and moves a lowermost article of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said

article shafts;

5 said article shafts are sloped to cause the articles to slide from said upper end to said lower end of said each shaft by gravity.

69. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a top of said article loader and moves an uppermost article of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said article shafts;

5 a lifter is arranged in said article loader to lift the stack of articles to said ejector.

70. (New) A system in accordance with claim 67, wherein:

said plurality of article shafts are arranged in a first bay;

another plurality of article shafts are arranged in a second bay;

said cart is movable between said first and second bays;

5 said article loader receives the stack of articles from one of said another plurality of shafts in said second bay;

said article loader includes a clamp for clamping the stack of articles.

71. (New) A system in accordance with claim 70, wherein:

said clamp selectively clamps and unclamps the stack of articles.

72. (New) A system in accordance with claim 70, wherein:

said clamp selectively clamps the stack of articles after receiving the articles from the second bay, while moving the articles from said first bay to said second bay, and before ejecting the articles into said first bay;

5 said clamp selectively unclamps while receiving the articles from the second and while ejecting the articles into said first bay.

73. (New) A commissioning system for a plurality of articles, the system comprising:

first and second bays, each of said bays including a plurality of article shafts arranged next to one another and one on top of another, each of said plurality of article shafts being sloped with respect to horizontal to have an upper and lower end, said each of said plurality of article shafts having a stopper for holding the articles in a sloped position in said article shafts, said first and second bays being spaced from each other;

5 a cart horizontally movable along said plurality of article shafts and between said first and second bays;

10 an article loader mounted vertically movable, pivotally movable and transversely movable on said cart to be selectively positioned and aligned with one of said article shafts of said first bay, said loader having a support for receiving a stack of the articles from said one article shaft, said support holding the stack of articles while said article loader moves vertically, pivotally and transversely to position the stack of articles at another of said article shafts in said second bay, the stack of articles having a longitudinal axis, said article loader including an

15 ejector movable in a transverse direction to said longitudinal axis of the stack of articles and individually ejecting one of the articles from the stack of articles in said transverse direction into said another of said article shafts in said second bay.

74. (New) A system in accordance with claim 73, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a bottom of said article loader and moves a lowermost article of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said article shafts;

5 said article shafts are sloped to cause the articles to slide from said upper end to said lower end of said each shaft by gravity.

75. (New) A system in accordance with claim 73, wherein:

said ejector is arranged at a top of said article loader and moves an uppermost article of the stack of articles from said article loader into said upper end of said selected one of said article shafts;

5 a lifter is arranged in said article loader to lift the stack of articles to said ejector.

76. (New) A system in accordance with claim 73, wherein:

said article loader includes a clamp for clamping the stack of articles.

77. (New) A system in accordance with claim 76, wherein:

said clamp selectively clamps and unclamps the stack of articles.

78. (New) A system in accordance with claim 76, wherein:

said clamp selectively clamps the stack of articles after receiving the articles from the second bay, while moving the articles from said first bay to said second bay, and before ejecting the articles into said first bay;

5           said clamp selectively unclamps while receiving the articles from the second and while ejecting the articles into said first bay.